

President Wilson Sets Forth United States' War Aims Before Congress in Joint Session

LAYS BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION WITH BERLIN

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.
(Continued from First Page.)

Perhaps the most important, if not the most acceptable article in Mr. Wilson's speech, is his outspoken advocacy of a removal of "all economic barriers" and the "establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance." By this language, he does not recede from his previous position nor does he repudiate the allied threat of trade discrimination, but he insists that a real peace in which the nations guarantee hereafter to become partners in a league of nations shall mean the removal of every trade barrier that can possibly lead to wars between nations.

The President includes what Lloyd George calls Mr. Wilson's explicit in his argument for a reduction of armaments and goes the whole distance by saying that armies and navies should be diminished to "the point consistent with domestic safety." This constitutes Mr. Roosevelt's plea for permanent conscription, but at the same time it would relieve the peoples of the whole world from the terrible burdens of taxation which the maintenance of big armies and navies in peace time must comprehend.

Mr. Wilson outdoes even the radicals of Russia by his denunciation of secret treaties, because he puts it first in his statement of peace terms, and insists that it shall be a violation of international law to make a secret treaty. This is the most pronounced step in the direction of world democracy ever put forth by the head of an important nation. It will make it possible for the people to be acquainted always with the details of foreign relations, so that they may never again be led into war by the schemes of autocracy's few men.

Throughout Congress there was a wave of approval of the main principles enunciated by President Wilson. The speech will go down in history as his greatest utterance. It is a generous offer of peace to Germany, a reasoned statement of America's lofty and unselfish position in this war, and a most heartening stimulus to the peoples of Great Britain and France, and divide Germany thus hastening the day when the German people shall gain possession of their government, and thereby bring peace and an end of suffering to the civilized world.

WOMAN'S DEATH DUE TO GAS ROBBING AIR

After full investigation of the case of Mrs. Zebbie Robbins, sixty-one years old, who died last night at "sanitary house" on North Carolina avenue northeast, after being found unconscious in her room, a gas stove having eaten up all the oxygen in the apartment with Mr. and Mrs. William J. Brower, whose two children almost were burned to death by an electric heater the same day.

Scientific Optimism

Some wit defined optimism as "not caring what happens just so it doesn't happen to me."

That kind of optimism is not possible in the world any more. Nor is the optimism which says "peace, peace when there is no peace."

The ends of the world are too close to each other, the universal problem is too complex, all men are too interdependent.

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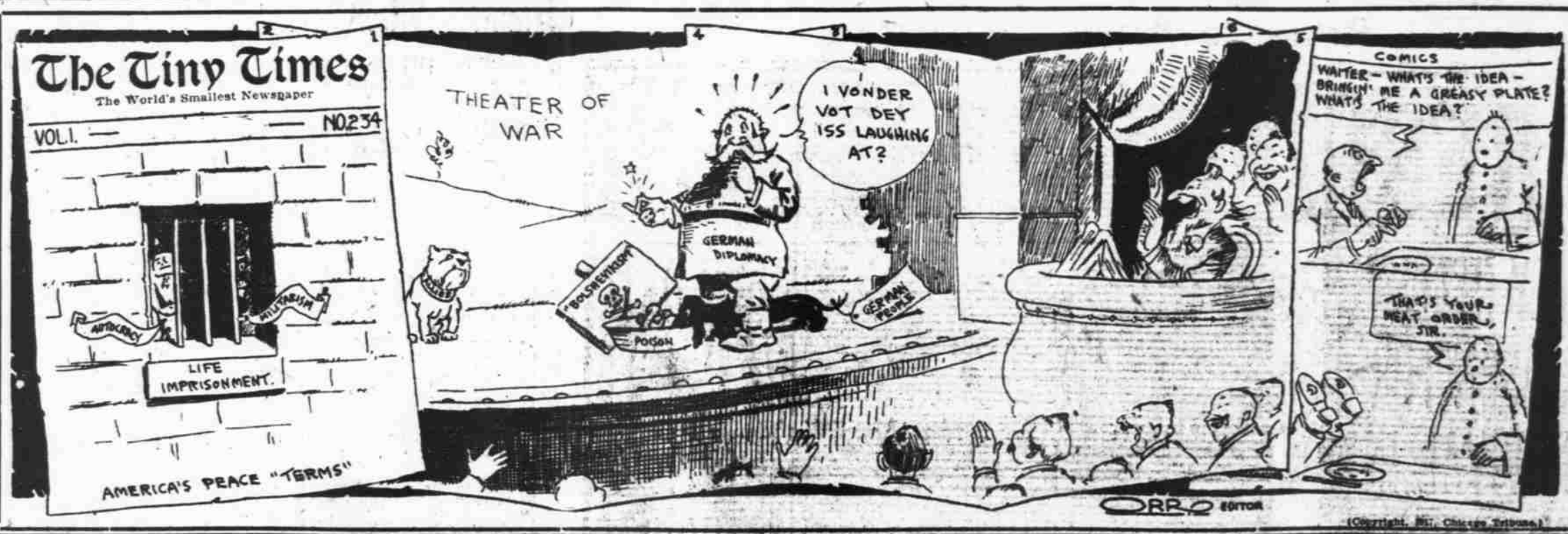
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COMPLETE TEXT OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen of the Congress: Once more, as repeatedly before, the spokesmen of the central powers have indicated their desire to discuss the objects of the war and the possible bases of a general peace.

Parleys have been in progress at Brest Litvinsk between Russian representatives and representatives of the central powers to which the attention of all the belligerents have been invited for the purpose of ascertaining whether it may be possible to extend the parleys into a general conference with regard to terms of peace and settlement.

Russian Program Definite. The Russian representatives presented not only a perfectly definite statement of the principles upon which they would be willing to conclude peace but also an equally definite program of the concrete application of those principles.

The representatives of the central powers on their part, presented an outline of settlement which, if much less definite, seemed susceptible of liberal interpretation until their specific program of practical terms was added.

That program proposed no concessions at all either to the sovereignty of Russia or to the reference of her population with whose fortunes it dealt, but meant, in a word, that the central empire were to keep every foot of territory their armed forces had occupied—every province, every city, every point of vantage—as a permanent addition to their territories and their power.

Suggestion Was Tentative. It is a reasonable conjecture that the general principles of settlement which they at first suggested originated with the more liberal statesmen of Germany and Austria, the men who have begun to feel the force of their own peoples' thought and purpose, while the concrete terms of actual settlement came from the military leaders who have no thought but to keep what they have got.

The negotiations have been broken off. The Russian representatives were sincere and in earnest. They cannot entertain such proposals of conquest and domination.

Incident Significant. The whole incident is full of significance. It is also full of perplexity. With whom are the Russian representatives dealing? For whom are the representatives of the central powers speaking? Are they speaking for the majorities of their respective parliaments or for the minority parties, that military and imperialist minority party which has so far dominated their whole policy and controlled the affairs of Turkey and of the Balkan states which have felt obliged to become their associates in this war?

Demand Open Doors. The Russian representatives have insisted, very justly, very wisely, and in the true spirit of modern democracy, that the conference they have been holding with the Teutonic and Turkish statesmen should be held with

open, not closed doors, and with the whole world as an audience was desired.

To whom have we been listening, those who speak the spirit and intention of the resolutions of the German Reichstag of the 9th of July last, the spirit and intention of the liberal leaders and parties of Germany, or to those who resist and defy that spirit and intention and insist upon conquest and subjugation?

Or are we listening, in fact, to both, unreconciled and in open and hopeless contradiction? These are very serious and pregnant questions. Upon the answer to them depends the peace of the world.

Challenge to Make Statement. But, whatever the results of the parleys at Brest Litvinsk, whatever the confusions of counsel and of purpose in the utterances of the spokesmen of the central empires, they have again attempted to acquiesce in the world with their objects in the war and have again challenged their adversaries to say what their objects are and what sort of settlement they would deem just and satisfactory.

There is no good reason why that challenge should not be responded to, and responded to with the utmost candor. We did not wait for it. Not once, but again and again, we have laid our whole thought and purpose before the world in general and Germany only, but each time with sufficient definition to make it clear what sort of definitive terms of settlement must necessarily spring out of them.

Within the last week Mr. Lloyd George has spoken with admirable candor and in admirable spirit for the people and government of Great Britain. There is no confusion of counsel among the adversaries of the central powers, no uncertainty of principle, no vagueness of detail.

Peace Is Sensitive. The only secrecy of counsel, the only lack of fearless frankness, the only failure to make definite statements of the objects of the war, lies with Germany and her allies. The issues of life and death hang upon these definitions. No statesman who has the least conception of his responsibility ought for a moment to permit himself to continue this tragical and appalling outpouring of blood and treasure unless he is sure beyond a peradventure that the objects of the vital sacrifice are part and parcel of the very life of society and that the people for whom he speaks think them right and imperative as he does.

Russians Ask Light. There is, moreover, a voice calling for these definitions of principle and of purposes which is, it seems to me, more thrilling and more compelling than any of the many moving voices with which the troubled air of the world is filled.

It is the voice of the Russian people. They are prostrate and all but helpless. It would seem, before the grim power of Germany,

which has hitherto known no relenting and no pity. Their power, apparently, is shattered.

And yet their soul is not subservient. They will not yield either in principle or in action. Their conception of what is right, of what is humane and honorable for them to accept, had been stated with a frankness, a largeness of view, a generosity of spirit, and a universal human sympathy which must challenge the admiration of every friend of mankind; and they have refused to compound their ideals or desert their objects that they themselves may be safe.

Ask for Statement. They call to us to say what it is that we desire, in what, if in anything, our purposes and our spirit differ from theirs; and I believe that the people of the United States would wish me to respond, with utter simplicity and frankness. Whether their present leaders believe it or not, it is our heartfelt desire and hope that some way may be opened whereby we may be privileged to assist the people of Russia to attain their utmost hope of liberty and ordered peace.

We will be our wish and purpose that the processes of peace, when they are begun, shall be absolutely open and that they shall involve and permit the forthright and secret understanding of any kind. The day of conquest and aggrandizement is gone by; so is also the day of secret covenants entered into in the interest of particular governments and likely to be unlooked for moment to upset the peace of the world.

It is this happy fact, now clear to the view of every public man whose thoughts do not still linger in an age that is dead and gone, which makes it possible for a nation whose purposes are consistent with justice and the peace of the world to avow now or at any other time the objects it has in view.

Rights Violated. We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible. These were corrected and the world secured once for all against their recurrence.

What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair play, and enjoy in common with all other peace-loving nations the right of sovereignty and self-determination, without which no peace is permanent.

At the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest and for our own part we are very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The program of the world peace, therefore, is our program; and that program, the only possible program, as we see it, is:

1. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.
2. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international agreement for the enforcement of international covenants.
3. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
4. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest points consistent with domestic safety.
5. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the population concerned shall be the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
6. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest co-operation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unobstructed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and more than a welcome assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire.
7. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own insatiable and selfish sympathies.
8. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impugned.
9. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CAPITOL COMES AS UTTER SURPRISE

Announcement that President Wilson had decided to take Congress into his confidence on the international situation came as a complete surprise today. No such action had been expected. When the White House let it be known at 11:30 that the Chief Executive had asked for a joint session to "discuss the international situation," there was hardly a corporal's guard of members of either the Senate or the House at the Capitol. Hurry calls were immediately sent broadcast for the members to hurry to the building. The result was that practically every taxicab in town was commandeered by members who wanted to know what it all was about.

The White House had no information on the subject. All members who called up Secretary Tumulty and his assistants were informed that the President had simply let it be known that he decided to discuss the international situation. There was no information as to why the President had acted in such a precipitate manner.

Meet in Ignorance. It had been understood ever since Lloyd George made his "peace terms" speech to the British laborites that President Wilson would discuss the war situation, and especially the Russian situation. But as late as 11 o'clock this morning nine-tenths of the Senate and House membership was in ignorance of the fact that the President was to talk.

The President and Mrs. Wilson spent the early morning on the muddy golf links. Within five minutes after he returned to the White House the President had the Senate and House leaders notified that conditions had arisen which made it necessary that a special joint session be arranged as soon as possible. It was told that 12:30 would satisfy the members and the call for a joint gathering at that hour was immediately sent out.

There was the usual wild speculation. Every sort of a guess was on tap as to what it all meant. Staid Senators, who usually are placid no matter what developments admit, they were puzzled over the precipitate action of the Executive.

Just as an evidence of the surprise which the announcement that the President was coming to the Capitol created the Serbian mission was to have been received by the House at the exact moment demand for the President.

Galleries Soon Fill. Although the House galleries were empty when the lower body met, they soon began to fill up. The word that the President was coming and that he would talk upon the international situation spread rapidly and soon members were being besieged for tickets of admission. The usual strict rules governing admission were enforced.

As soon as the President reached the Capitol he went directly to Speaker Clark's private office to await the assembling of the two Houses. In addition to the majority leaders of the Senate and the House members of the Foreign Affairs Committee were named to escort the Chief Executive to the platform.

Mrs. Wilson, with the members of the President's family and some guests reached the Capitol five minutes after the President arrived and went at once to the executive gallery. Five minutes before the President was scheduled to begin to talk the diplomatic gallery was empty.

THE WRONG ADDRESS. Edith—Dick, your office is in State street, isn't it?
Dick—Yes, Why?
Edith—That's what I told papa. He made such a funny mistake about you yesterday. He said he'd been looking you up in Bradstreet—Exchange.

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ASKS NEW CITIZENS TO READ PAPERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Appreciating the influence of American newspapers for good citizenship and the inculturation of American thought, Justice Siddons today urged upon those candidates for citizenship whose native tongue is not English to read daily American newspapers in native language and to cultivate preference to papers printed in their

GERMANS SET DEATH TRAPS IN PATHS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS

PARIS, Jan. 8.—Devilish devices to trap American soldiers near the front are being discovered, but to date the Americans have suffered no casualties there from because of being forewarned, says a dispatch from American headquarters in France.

Fits in which are planted bombs; secret wire connections which are exploded on a mine; bombs camouflaged by coffins; and various other devices have been found. In addition, dugouts in which were hidden explosives have as one form of trap failed of its purpose, the Germans attempt new ones.

closer contact with American speaking people.

After closely questioning the candidates on matters pertaining to the Constitution and the American Government and satisfying himself of their fitness to become citizens, Justice Siddons admitted the following new citizens: Meyer Brown, Paul Zaphyrus, Nathan Norman Smiler, Joseph Lord, Louis Margolis, Ole Christensen, Isaac Mendelson, Myer Harris, James Driscoll, Isaac Selman, Marie Cannizzo, John Sullivan Hanlon, Antonio Barone, and Michael Quinlan.

The cases of some of the applicants were postponed to give them an opportunity to study up on American institutions.

AUSTRALIAN DRAFT FAILURE CAUSES CABINET TO RESIGN

MELBOURNE, Jan. 8.—The entire cabinet resigned today, the result of the recent vote against conscription. Hon. F. G. Tudor, formerly minister of trade, was asked to form a new ministry.

TOP-NOTCH PRICES TO ASSURE BUMPER CROP NEXT SEASON

Farmers throughout the country will be assured top-notch prices for their products next season, and thus a bumper crop seems to be assured. This was the declaration today of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, addressing state food administrators here for a two-day conference with Federal Administrator Hoover.

Secretary Houston said that his department was co-operating with the food administration in the whole matter of stimulating production and conservation, and outlined his program aimed at bringing about the program aimed at bringing about the history of the country. He believes that the assurance of high prices to the farmers will result in the planting of thousands of additional acres. The administrators will thresh out several important matters during their conference, one of which will be the establishment of county administrators in every state. This plan has been adopted in many states and has met with good results in bringing about a closer interchange with the state administrators.

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